United Nations S/2000/791

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 August 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 9 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to call your attention to the statements that are lately being made with increasing frequency by senior officials of the Iraqi Government, most recently in the address given by the Iraqi President on 8 August 2000. The substance and language of this address and of the other statements represent without any doubt a threat and a provocation not only to Kuwait but to all the countries of the region.

More than 10 years after the invasion and occupation of Kuwait, the substance of the Iraqi President's address and of the statements made by Iraqi officials confirms that the Iraqi Government has learned no lesson from the hazards that its policy towards Kuwait and its neighbours created or from the disasters that it thereby brought upon itself. This wilful attitude reflects no sense of remorse or regret for its flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international norms and conventions.

These statements and the implicit threats they make to the security and stability of the State of Kuwait once again confirm that the Iraqi Government is still pursuing its policy and maintaining its bellicose attitude towards Kuwait. This is incompatible with the relevant Security Council resolutions and, in particular, with resolution 687 (1991), in which the Council, in the fourth preambular paragraph, "reaffirms the need to be assured of Iraq's peaceful intentions in the light of its unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait". The statements in question also justify Kuwait's apprehensions and its doubts concerning the sincerity of the Iraqi Government in regard to its compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Accordingly, Kuwait calls upon the Security Council, by virtue of its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to urge the Iraqi Government to desist from its maintenance of an aggressive attitude that poses a threat to security and stability in Kuwait, to demand that it should honour the relevant international covenants and conventions and to require it to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad A. **Abulhasan**
Permanent Representative

00-60359 (E) 140800

United Nations S/2000/792

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 August 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 10 August 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 9 August 2000, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

00-60353 (E) 110800

Annex

Letter dated 9 August 2000 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force (SFOR). I would appreciate your making the report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (13 June-12 July 2000), there were approximately 22,700 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the NATO allies and from 15 non-NATO countries. Troops of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations in the theatre by means of ground and air patrols. Operations included area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the Entity Armed Forces, conducting weapons storage site inspections, providing support to the international organizations in theatre and collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest.

2. SFOR troops continued to monitor compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998), which prohibits the transport of weapons into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by providing an intensified presence on the ground in order to enforce the embargo. No violations were reported.

3. On 25 June, SFOR troops in Prijedor (Multinational Division (MND) South-West) detained an individual, Dusko Sikirica, who had been indicted for war crimes by the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.[1] Sikirica was subsequently transported to The Hague.

4. In anticipation of the fifth anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre on 11 July, SFOR troops intensified reconnaissance and surveillance patrols in Bratunac and Srebrenica (MND North). The commemoration of the massacre by the Women of Srebrenica and affiliated organizations was conducted peacefully on 11 July.

5. Over the reporting period, SFOR also continued to monitor the movement of controlled petroleum products into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by establishing traffic control points. No violations were reported.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

6. The situation in theatre remained calm and stable over the reporting period, with the entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement. There were several isolated acts of violence, including an explosion near Derventa on 25 June, which destroyed a Catholic Church, and an explosion in a bar in Prijedor on 6 July. Neither incident resulted in casualties.

7. There were a number of small-scale demonstrations over the period. On 14 June, approximately 60 people blocked a road in Simin Han (MND North) to protest against an attempted eviction of Bosnian Serbs. The demonstration ended peacefully. Similarly, on 27 June, around 30 people blocked a secondary road near Brcko (MND North) in protest of the eviction of 13 Bosnian Serbs. SFOR troops monitored the situation and the demonstration ended peacefully.

8. Over the period, SFOR troops conducted 159 military weapons storage site inspections. No violations were reported.

[1] Russia confirms its special position on this matter.

9. SFOR troops monitored 1,182 training and movement activities: 661 Bosnian Serb; 308 Bosniac; 90 Bosnian Croat; and 123 Federation. The training and movement ban on the Republika Srpska Police Anti-Terrorist Brigade remains in force.

10. The fourth period of the summer demining season began on 3 July, with 45 demining teams in operation. To date this year, the demining teams have cleared mines and unexploded ordnance from 340,000 square metres of land.

Cooperation with international organizations

11. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Police Task Force (IPTF), the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Office of the High Representative, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

12. SFOR continues to support the Office of the High Representative in the establishment of joint institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including a security dimension, in line with the Peace Implementation Council Ministerial Declaration of 23 May.

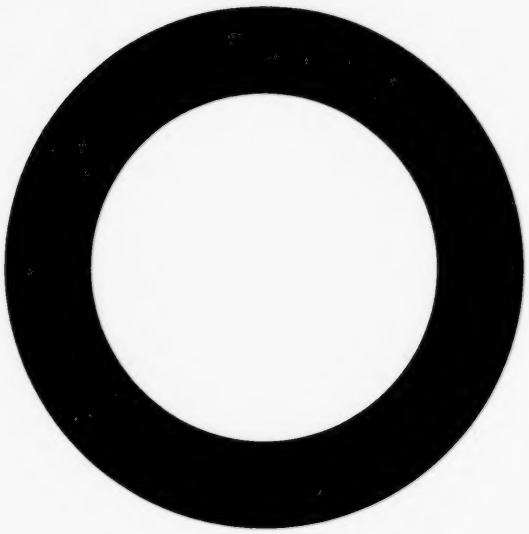
13. On 6 July, SFOR and IPTF spokesmen announced that the Republika Srpska's Special Police Forces, which operate within the Bosnian Serb Interior Ministry, had been reorganized and placed under civilian control, in line with requests from the international community. The responsibility for monitoring the work of the Special Police Forces was consequently transferred from SFOR to IPTF.

14. In response to requests from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, SFOR continued to support minority returnees and refugees over the period by delivering basic supplies. During the month of June, there were 1,630 returns of displaced persons and refugees, and 4,902 visits by displaced persons and refugees to their former homes.

15. On 20 June, the Republika Srpska temporarily suspended its participation in the work of the Vienna-based commission for the application of article IV of the Peace Agreement, relating to the subregional control of weapons in the former Yugoslavia. This suspension followed that of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at the end of May. Although the remaining parties have expressed their desire to continue, the suspension will impose severe restrictions on accomplishments under article IV.

Outlook

16. Sporadic low-level violence is likely to continue, mainly in reaction to the return of refugees and displaced persons.



United Nations S/2000/793

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 August 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 11 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, issued on 11 August 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fesseha A. **Tessema**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-60475 (E) 110800

Annex to the letter dated 11 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Playing a Dangerous Game

11 August 2000

The Eritrean regime is playing a dangerous game. Following the agreement on cessation of hostilities signed in Algiers on 18 June 2000 (S/2000/627, enclosure), the regime has escalated its repressive actions against innocent Ethiopian civilians that reside in Eritrea. The regime should realize that it cannot get away from assuming full responsibility for its actions and that Ethiopia and the international community cannot be expected to tolerate the cruel and irresponsible actions launched against the defenceless by the Asmara authorities.

It is known that, between 20 June and 4 August 2000, about 10,000 Ethiopians returned to their country through nine operations in which the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been involved.

The Eritrean regime, however, has continued to expel Ethiopians through unacceptable means and routes which are unsafe, causing casualties in the process. In the past few days alone, the Eritrean authorities have expelled 6,428 persons under dangerous and inhuman conditions. The details are as follows:

567 persons via the Mereb River on 30 July;

3,300 persons via the Tsorona front line on 2 August;

261 persons via the Mereb River on 4 August;

2,300 persons via the Mereb River on 7 August.

The ICRC has recognized the fact that the Eritrean regime is committing crimes in its expulsion policy. In a press statement, the ICRC said that the expulsions were carried out "without the necessary conditions of security" and "without the knowledge and involvement of the ICRC." Persons, mainly children, women and the elderly, were forced to walk for 40 kilometres for 18 hours, over dangerous and mined areas before reaching Ethiopian positions and safety. The ICRC has reported that five persons have died and that it will seek to learn the exact details.

The Eritrean regime continues to charge falsely that Ethiopia refuses to accept its citizens. The opposite is true. Ethiopia anxiously awaits the return of its citizens not via Mereb or Tsorona but through safe routes, such as the Senafe and Asseb routes and in the presence of the ICRC.

There is another persistent and disturbing phenomenon — that Eritrea is only allowing some women, children and the elderly to go home, while continuing to incarcerate the men in concentration camps. This abominable situation cannot be allowed to continue.

The fact that Eritrea is maintaining concentration camps at which tens of thousands of Ethiopians are kept under inhuman conditions, many of whom are being used by the Eritrean authorities for slave labour, cannot remain hidden for too long. This is apart from those who have been incarcerated in various Eritrean prisons. Moreover, hundreds of Ethiopians in Eritrea have been made to disappear and their whereabouts are still unknown. Eritrea will have to be made to answer for all this by the international community.

Ethiopia has been appealing to the international community to prevail upon the callous regime in Eritrea to let Ethiopians return to their homeland in conditions of safety. On this occasion, Ethiopia reiterates its calls on the international community to take a firm stand publicly against these inhuman deeds by the Eritrean authorities. The international community — specifically, those with the mandate in this area — have the responsibility to prevail upon the Eritrean authorities to stop forthwith their cruel and inhuman treatment of innocent Ethiopians residing in Eritrea. Ethiopia also calls on the international community to provide assistance to those who have already returned under difficult and excruciating circumstances, having been the target of mass deportation by the Eritrean authorities.

Ethiopia wishes to make it clear that the Eritrean regime should consider itself warned that continuing to pursue its cruel policies of incarceration and mass expulsion through minefields of Ethiopian citizens will have grave consequences for which the Eritrean authorities will be held responsible.